

## BOOK REVIEW

SERGE PAYETTE, ED. 2013. **Flore Nordique du Québec et du Labrador. Vol. 1.** (ISBN-13: 978-2-7637-2079-1, hbk; 978-2-7633-7208-7, pdf). Presses de l'Université Laval, 2180, chemin Sainte-Foy, 1<sup>er</sup> étage, Québec (Québec) G1V 0A6, CANADA. (Orders: www.pulaval.com, 1-800-363-2864). \$89.95 CND (~\$83.00 USD), 561 pp., 8 $\frac{1}{8}$ " x 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

In 1935 Frère Marie-Victorin's *Flore Laurentienne* became the standard work for the flora of the province of Quebec, and now in its third edition, it is still highly regarded and most useful for a large section of the area. As the title indicates, *Flore Nordique* covers the more northern areas, from the 54° parallel to the 63° parallel, that is, from just above James Bay to Hudson Bay, north to the Hudson Strait, and across the provinces to the Labrador Sea on the east, including all the adjacent islands.

The editor, Serge Payette, director of the Herbarium Louis-Marie at the Université Laval, has written very informative, comprehensive, and interesting accounts of the exploration of these territories from the earliest expeditions to settlements such as those of Moravian settlers in Labrador and on to the very important work of twelve botanists in the twentieth century. All in their own way contributed to the work, largely through specimens deposited at the Laval University herbarium and elsewhere. Mr. Payette's explanations of the geology and the geography of the area and its five vegetative zones are essential to the understanding of the area covered in this book. He defines these zones as closed coniferous forest (balsam firs, pines, and a few deciduous trees); open coniferous forest in drier areas with 10% of regional forest flora; the smaller forested tundra with black pine, tamarack, other shrubs, and lichens; the shrubby sub-Arctic tundra; and, northernmost, the Arctic tundra with its mixture of herbaceous plants and scattered shrubs, willows, and Ericaceae. Shaded maps outline each of these regions. Only one species is strictly endemic: *Elatine ojibwayensis* Garneau (Elatinaceae), which does not however fall within the scope of this volume. Other regional endemics are found across the larger Canadian Shield. The editor considers the relative paucity of plants in the region and the rarity of some as he discusses the existing populations of species.

Following a key to all of the plant families represented in the entire *Flore Nordique*, Mr. Payette and six other botanists present the 32 families covered in this volume. The coverage includes the history of the taxon, the vernacular names in French and English, a detailed description of the species, and color photographs of its particular organs or growth patterns, of herbarium specimens, and often of the living plant in habitat. Appended to the discussion of the family is a section of physical maps showing range and distribution of each species and pinpointing where specimens were taken. A bibliography of the literature consulted accompanies the text.

Coverage includes many pteridophytes, the gymnosperms, and some monocots such as Orchidaceae and Iridaceae. There is no indication of which families will be covered in each of the subsequent three volumes nor projected dates of publication.

The appended material is also very valuable. Thirty-three plates offer an entire lexicon of botany, with precise illustrations and the French term for each illustration. For example, there are on four pages (two plates) forty-four illustrations with terms for textures used in botanical literature, from "pubescent" to "alveolate." A glossary in French, each entry with an English equivalent, defines botanical terms used throughout the book. There is also an English-French vocabulary of botanical terms that readers may find useful. Indices include one by scientific name and one by common names, both French and English. Color charts, one bound in and one removable, are helpful in that they indicate the range of color terms used for the plants.

*Flore Nordique* is an important contribution to the botany of North America. The editor and co-contributors along with the sponsors should be complimented and congratulated on the achievement of this work. While it will be of primary use to those studying the local flora, the book will also be of interest to those studying the ecology of plant growth in severe climatic and geographic conditions around the world.—Joann Karges, *Texas Christian University (retired), Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.*